

A great army and navy. The people would not have tolerated it and no statesman foresaw the present situation. But to charge the Democratic administration with responsibility for the inadequate means left by the Republican Party is injustice of the grossest character.

"Upon the issue of preparedness there is no mistaking the attitude or purposes of the President.

"How can Americans differ about the safety of America? Is the question that he submits to his fellow countrymen.

The American Soldier.

"I know it is not good form to speak well of our army or navy, but at the risk of being regarded as a pacifist and with apologies to Senator McLean, I suggest that 'our soldiers faint if called upon to march more than ten miles a day.' I call attention to the recent performances of American troops in Mexico.

"On March 24th, with 338 men of the Eleventh Cavalry, Major Houze cut loose from all communication. On an issue of five days rations the column marched in 31 days, 571 miles, which is only 100 miles less than the distance from Paris to Berlin.

"They marched through a desert which afforded no fodder and only at long intervals water for the horses. There were no roads, only a trail. During the entire march they were beyond reach of relief. They fought several engagements, were victorious in all, and lost but one man. With all due respect to Senator McLean, I assert that there are no soldiers in the world who could have excelled that feat of that little band of American troops. That is the spirit of America. That is illustrative of what Americans can do when put to the test.

Support the President.

"The Senator indulges in a prolonged and inconclusive consideration of the President's foreign policies. At one moment he affects to believe the President infirm of purpose. In the next breath he implies that he may have gone too far and ends his futile discussion with the lame and impotent conclusion, 'I think this is a debatable question.'

"Again, he says, 'What is the same and patriotic thing to do?' But he supplies no answer to the question.

"If the Senator desires to know what patriotic Republicans believe, I commend to him the statement made by ex-President Taft, on April 21st, in an address delivered at Chicago. Mr. Taft discusses the course pursued by President Wilson. He is right and we all must stand by him. I can not follow the reasoning of those who exalt Americanism and patriotism and do not uphold his hands in the present crisis.

"This was also the attitude of Senator Root on April 25, 1914, when, speaking at a banquet of the American Society of International Law at the Willard Hotel in Washington, he said: 'Thank Heaven we have a President in whose lofty character, in whose sincerity of purpose, in his genuine desire to do what is right, wise, patriotic, and what is best for the country and humanity, we have absolutely, I trust in him, I have differed from him in questions of policy and doubtless shall differ from him again. Men coming up with different environments and associations, ideas must differ; but I have confidence in the character and purpose of the President of the United States. He is my President and I will stand behind him in his leadership.'

"These are ringing American words spoken before the political campaign opened and before the exigencies of the Republican Party required the distinguished lawyer to prepare a brief on the other side.

Our Foreign Policies.

"The policy of the President is to maintain our national honor and, if possible, to preserve peace. Who will deny that before submitting to the hazards and miseries of war, statesmanship requires that the appeal to reason and justice should first be employed, and that every resource known to diplomacy should be exhausted? Of course, there are irresponsible and excitable critics who complain of the vacillation and delay necessarily incident to such negotiations.

"Alexander Hamilton and Rufus King criticized the diplomacy of Washington in connection with the Genet controversy. The members of the Cabinet of John Adams criticized his negotiations with France.

"John Randolph bitterly attacked Jefferson's foreign policy. Horace Greeley was dissatisfied with the diplomacy of Lincoln, and many men who took themselves for statesmen, condemned the action of Lincoln in overruling his Secretary of the Navy and even the House of Representatives to maintain peace with Great Britain when the Trent affair had stirred the anger of our people. We have had distressing international problems before. In 1793, during the war between England and France, the former seized and held hundreds of vessels floating the American flag. That incident in our history led Charles Sumner to say, 'Washington upholding the peaceful neutrality of this country while he met unmoved the clamor of the people who were crying for war is a greater man than Washington crossing the Delaware or taking Cornwallis's sword at Yorktown.' In the campaign of 1844 one of the issues was 'Fifty-four forty or fight.' We settled the Oregon dispute with England by writing notes and by negotiations.

"During the Civil War the dispute with England, concerning the Alabama and other privateers which had destroyed American commerce, disturbed American sentiment, but Lincoln wrote notes and negotiated and saved his country from war.

"In 1873 Spain seized the ship Virginius, firing the American flag, shot the captain of the ship, thirty-six of the crew and twelve passengers, but President Grant wrote notes and resorted to diplomacy and saved the country from war.

"Later in our history there was a controversy with Chile, growing out of the shooting of the sailors of the United States battleship Baltimore. James G. Blaine, Secretary of State, wrote notes and resorted to diplomacy and saved the country from war.

"The bloodthirsty attitude assumed by Mr. Root and Mr. Roosevelt, both of whom, curiously enough were recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize, is one of those astonishing revelations indicative of the manner in which men of repute are apt to lose their heads in a national crisis. But the President of the United States has not lost his head, nor has he lost sight of the true vision of what America means to the world. It has been his difficult task to maintain, in time of war, the standards of peace. To preserve peace, under such circumstances, is a far nobler accomplishment than to lead a nation in war. One can always have war. It should be a last resort. All our great statesmen have warned us against it.

"The pages of our history are filled with the admonitions of Jefferson and Franklin and Lincoln and Grant all had a horror of war, but shall any one say that they lacked courage or that when the time of test came they flinched or failed? The American people have sufficient discernment to distinguish between the spurious patriotism that rushed headlong into controversy and that real patriotism which is not easily provoked to bitterness or violence or reprisal and which for that very fact may be counted upon for all the greater steadfastness in the real hour of national peril.

Belgium.

"The American people, no matter what their feeling may have been with regard to Belgium, know that the attitude of neutrality assumed by the President was the only correct position that could have been taken. Had a contrary position been assumed the sinking of the Lusitania, when it came would almost inevitably have required us to join the international conflict.

"It may be true that some of our citizens would have approved this course and have accepted the results gladly, but they are but a mere fraction of our people.

"Mr. Root was United States Senator when the Belgium representatives came to this country, and Senator McLean was also in the Senate. I do not recall that either of these statesmen arose to support the propriety upon the part of the President of writing a note of disapproval to Germany. Seven weeks later, Mr. Roosevelt in the Outlook of September 23rd, 1914, said: 'Of course it would have been folly to jump into the gulf ourselves in no good purpose and very probably nothing we could have done would have helped Belgium. Only the clearest and most urgent national duty would justify us in deviating from our rule of neutrality and non-interference.'

"Since that time, my friends, we have heard a deal of nonsense about what the government ought to have done; but the common sense of American citizenship will appraise these criticisms at their just value.

American Diplomacy.

"Some sensitive and nervous people are alarmed lest we become the laughing stock of Europe. Let them be reassured. The diplomacy of the old world, in the light of the events of the last two years, has little to commend it to the free people of this country. It is much more important to know what America thinks of the statesmanship of Europe than what Europe thinks of the statesmanship of America.

"The Democratic Party is treading the traditional path of enlightened policy.

"Washington, in his farewell address, expressed the hope that we may never unsheathe the sword except in self-defense, so long as justice and our national rights and national respectability can be preserved by it.

"Our President, speaking recently in New York, expressed the same idea when he said: 'Americans would not seek a contest or cravenly avoid one. They will fight for the vindication of their honor and character, for liberty and for free institutions.'

"We are a peace loving people; we are a patient people; we are a powerful people and, let us hope, we are a just people. And any nation which has the courage to avoid an unnecessary war will not lack the courage to wage a righteous one.

The World Conflict.

"We may not be able to maintain peace. No one can foresee what a day may bring forth. But this we know, up to the present moment our President has kept us out of this world conflict. If trouble comes we are immeasurably better prepared for it than we were a year ago. In the matter of the ability to produce the munitions of war, perhaps the most important thing of all, we are a thousand per cent better off than we were when this war began. If the services of the President have merely delayed the hour of our entry into the conflict, America can never repay the debt it owes him.

"Away, I say, with evil counsels of impatience. We must have the fairness to appreciate that while we negotiate there are millions of our fellow creatures to whom the war has changed the aspect of the earth and imagery of heaven.

"The grave-heaps and heart-breaks, the utter agony and despair of mankind—surely these things should teach us humanity and forbearance and patience. We must make allowance for these unprecedented conditions and we must not darken that lone light that shines from liberty-loving America upon the troubled and desperate peoples of the earth.

"Lincoln would have been moved to a great compassion by a world in such travail. Let us summon to our memory the underlying words with malice toward none, with charity for all, let us strive to do the right as God gives us to see the right."

Thoughtless Criticism.

"All those who are entrusted with power in a national crisis are violently assailed. Let me read you a quotation recently appearing in the public press: 'How much longer is the nation prepared to drift under the domination of leaders who refuse to lead, who are on the trouble and who suffer from chronic inability to make up their minds.'

"That, my friends, sounds familiar, but it is not a criticism of the present administration. It is taken from the London Daily Mail criticizing the Asquith Ministry.

and bitter. Valley Forge and Yorktown were forgotten and the effect of Washington was burned in the public streets of our cities. Our neutrality was violated at home and abroad, political criticism degenerated into sedition and Washington said he would rather be in his grave than be President of the United States. But he adhered to his purpose and that sorry page in American history teaches us that Washington was right.

"In the period of the Civil War, Lincoln was similarly attacked. Scarcely a week passed that a delegation did not go to Washington to tell him how to run the Government. He was accused of vacillation, of inability to make up his mind. He was called a clown, a butcher, a hell-hound of slavery, a traitor, a despot, a gorilla, a baboon, a fool, an ignorant back woods lawyer, a scoundrel and a villain. There were Roosevelt in that time; but Lincoln adhered to his purpose and his calm spirit rests to-day like a benediction upon America. He was accused of trust to Great Britain and was denounced upon the floor of Congress. It is reported that when one delegation came to see the President he replied as follows: 'Gentlemen, suppose all the property you were worth was in gold and you had put it in the hands of Blondin to carry across the Niagara river on a rope. Would you shake the cable or keep shouting to him? 'Blondin, stand up a little straighter, Blondin stoop a little lower, or go a little faster, lean a little more to the north, lean a little more to the south?' No, you would hold your breath and wait until he was safe over. The government is carrying an enormous weight, untold treasures are in their hands. They are doing the best they can. Do not badger them, keep silence and we will get you safe across.'

"Later in the history of our country President McKinley was the victim of similar vituperation. McKinley was for peace even when the Maine lay in ruins, and implored his countrymen not to disturb the orderly processes of diplomacy.

"No one who reads the debates in Congress during that period can fail to feel a flush of shame because of the unbridled and malicious criticism to which he was subjected. They called him weak and vacillating and exhausted the vocabulary of vituperation. Evil forces, selfish forces, reckless forces were at work in America, then as now, and, in the end, forced McKinley reluctantly into war.

"And now, in the darkest day of the world's history, Wilson stands like a stone wall—resisting these same evil forces.

America's Mission.

"There is no difficulty about getting into this war. The impulsive statesmen of the hour could have managed it for you long ago. But it has been our hope that America might remain at peace.

"We are the only great disengaged nation on earth. In a certain sense we are the trustees of the moral judgments of the world. Some men keep undisturbed the great stable foundations of international justice.

"America's mission is a mission of humanity and peace. Let us hope that our place in the immediate years to come shall be to bind up the wounds of war, to re-establish the ties of friendship, to recreate and strengthen the bonds of fraternity that ought to unite all humanity everywhere. 'And, as the white hot events of today pass into the cool yesterdays of history, it will be recorded that when a crisis came again to America and men were distracted and counsels were confused, an all-wise Providence sent to the nation another Lincoln; and that amid a world of turbulent spirits and swift and surpassing change, he stood undisturbed and steadfast, with no other wish than to reach the serene heights of his intellectual and moral power—towering above them all—the first citizen of the civilized world.'

WALKER ELECTED AS DELEGATE TO BIG CONVENTION

Bridgeporter Has No Opposition In Caucus of the Fourth District

(Special to The Farmer.)

New Haven, May 10.—Fairfield county's part in the opening session of the Democratic state convention went through without a sign of contest.

At the congressional caucus, at which Senator Lester O. Peck presided, Daniel E. Walker of Bridgeport and Judge John T. Keough of Norwalk were named for delegates to the national convention, and Charles D. Lockwood of Stamford was endorsed for delegate-at-large.

Mr. Walker's name was presented by George F. Marx of Bridgeport, Albert Phillips nominated Judge Keough and Homer S. Cummings offered the name of Mr. Lockwood. There was no opposition to any of the nominations.

There were contests in the first, second and fifth districts. In the first the candidates were Mr. F. Connor, N. E. Mitchell, Canton, and P. H. Condon, Bristol. A ballot was necessary and Mr. Connor got 45, Mitchell 16 and Condon 18. Mr. Connor was then chosen as first delegate and Mr. Howes named as the second delegate.

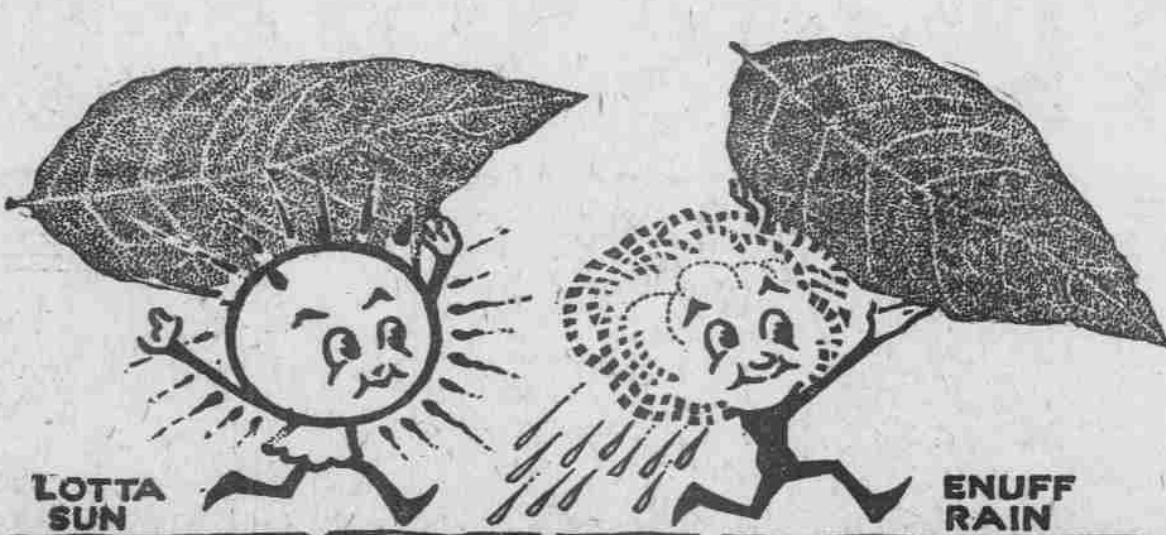
In the second district C. A. Tanner presided and the nominations for first delegate were Mr. Miner, C. H. Tanner, R. U. Tyler, George Forster, D. P. Dunn and John L. Fluke of Middletown. Messrs. Forster and Dunn did not want the honor. A ballot showed Mr. Miner in the lead, and his nomination was unanimous. Then Mr. Tyler was named as second delegate.

The third district nominated Thomas L. Kelly, of Meriden; Louis E. Stoddard, of New Haven; and endorsed David E. Fitzgerald, of New Haven, for delegate-at-large.

In the fifth district Eli Weeks of Litchfield presided and J. F. McDonough was secretary. Kennedy had been endorsed for delegate-at-large and Mr. Addis for first delegate, a ballot was necessary to select the second delegate, between W. R. Palmer of Oxford and J. J. McEwen of Waterbury, and the latter won, 59 to 30.

IOWA DEMOCRATS PRAISE PRESIDENT

(Clinton, Ia., May 10.—Praise for President Wilson and his administration today was the feature of the



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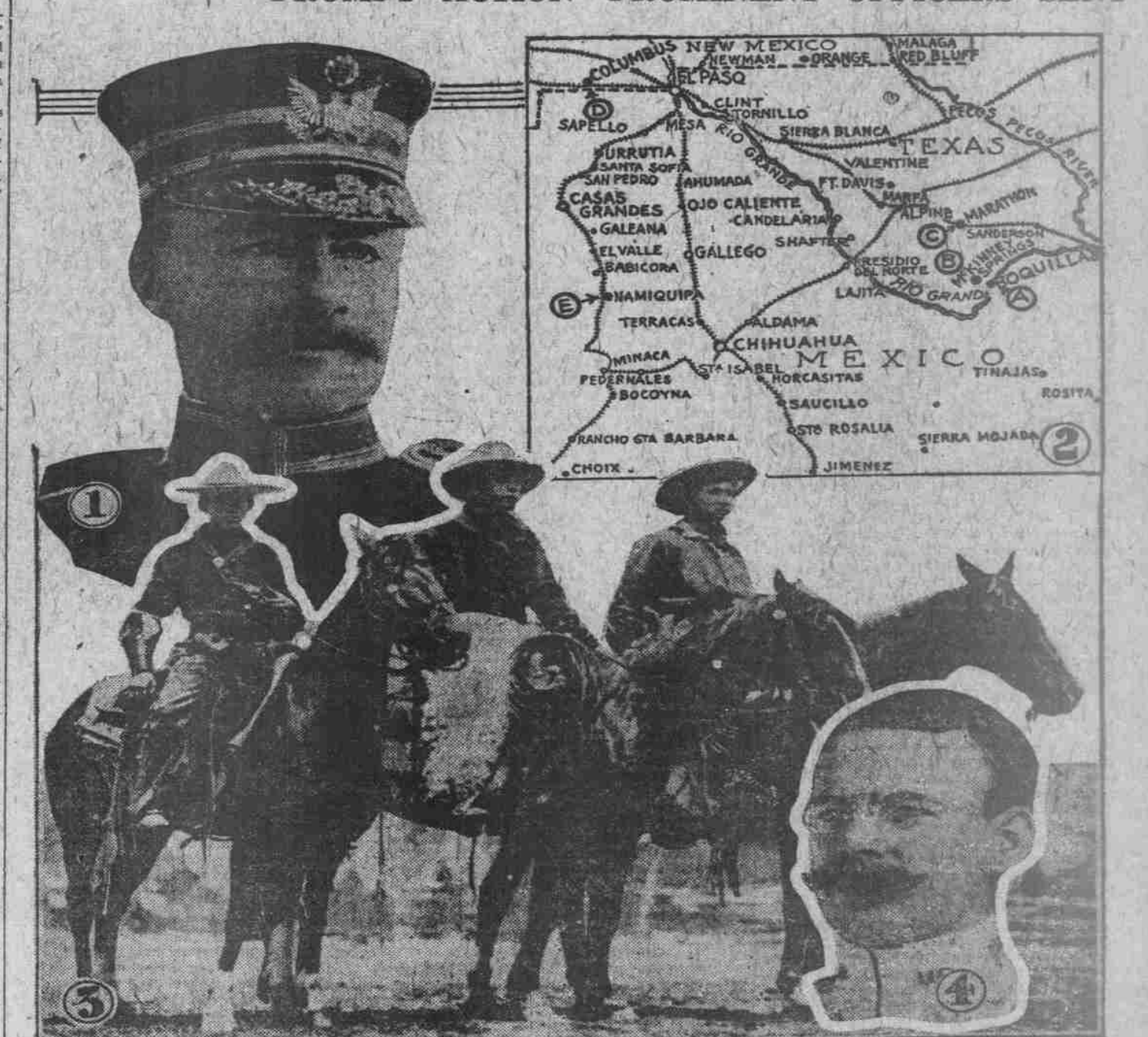
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NEW RAID ON TEXAS TOWNS BRINGS PROMPT ACTION—PROMINENT OFFICERS SENT



As soon as he received official reports of the new raid on Texas towns by Mexican bandits General Funston ordered two troops of the Fourteenth cavalry to leave Fort Clark, Texas, north-east of El Paso, for the purpose of raiding the Mexican towns of El Paso, Tex., to entrain for Marathon, a town a short distance beyond Alpine, and they left in a special train. They were under command of Major George T. Langhorne. Meanwhile records had been broken in loading cavalry horses and packing field equipment. Governor J. E. Ferguson of Texas also ordered a detachment of state soldiers to proceed to Glen Springs and act as scouts for the American troops. Captain Monroe Fox is in command of these rangers. No. 1 in the picture is Colonel Sibley; No. 2, map of the newly disturbed region; No. 3, Texas rangers; No. 4, Major Langhorne. Colonel Sibley and Major Langhorne are well known army officers, the former having been commander of cadets at West Point and the latter until recently military attaché at Berlin. In the map, A shows the quail, where the Mexican bandits crossed the Rio Grande; B, McKinley Springs, a little east of the raid; C, Marathon, Tex., 85 miles from the border and to which the bodies of the dead were transported; D, Columbus, N. M., one of the former raid, which resulted in United States troops crossing into Mexico; E, Nacogdoches, most southerly point in Mexico reached by United States forces pursuing Villa.

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